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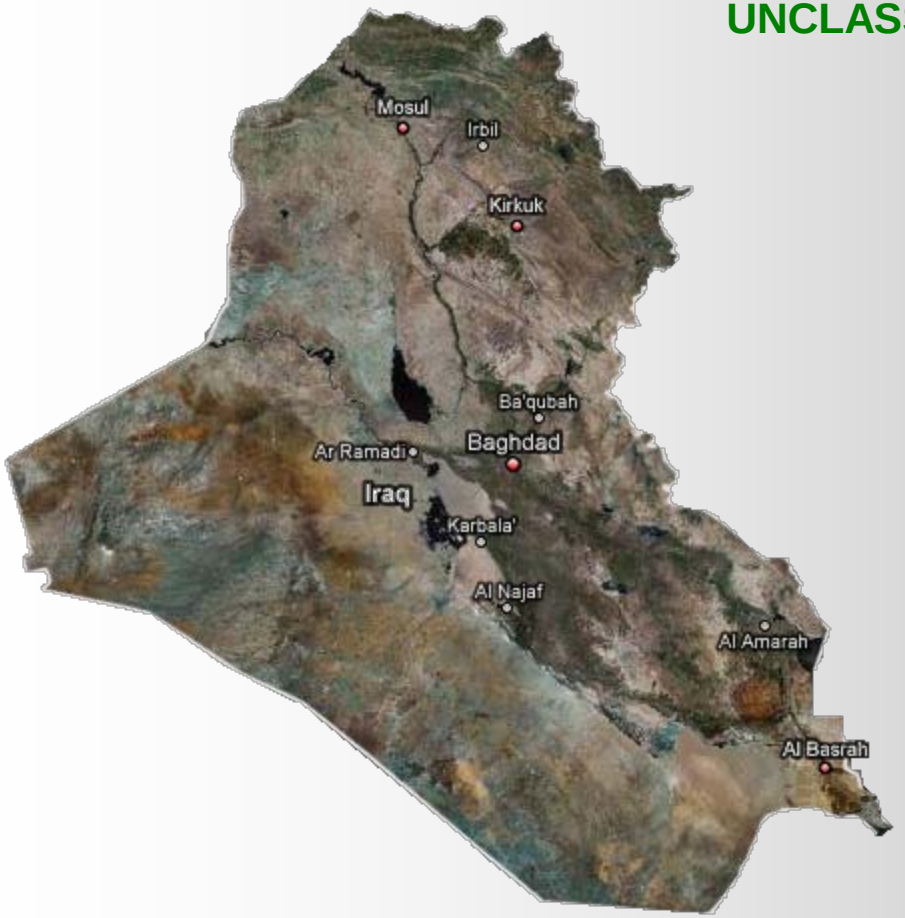

Iraq Status Report

May 26, 2010

Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs
U.S. Department of State

UNCLASSIFIED

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HIGHLIGHTS

- **Election Results Will Move to the Supreme Court for Certification (*POLITICAL*, page 4)**

- **Newly Elected Member of Parliament Killed in Drive-By Shooting (*SECURITY*, page 9)**

- **International Oil Service Firms Invited to Drill Four New Wells for West Qurna Phase One Oil Field (*ECONOMIC*, page 11)**

- **Iraq's Ambassador Arrives in Egypt (*DIPLOMATIC*, page 15)**

POLITICAL – Governance & Legislation

Certification process begins

Election Results Will Move to the Supreme Court for Certification:

- **On May 25 election authorities in Iraq rejected final appeals of the March parliamentary election results, which will now move to the Supreme Court for certification. The Independent High Electoral Committee (IHEC) had received four new appeals from candidates who lost their parliamentary seats after the Baghdad ballot manual recount. May 24 was the last day for electoral appeals.**

Sistani Urges National Unity After Meeting with Allawi:

- **Former Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, the leader of the Iraqiya coalition, met with Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani in the holy city of Najaf on May 23 to discuss post-election government formation. Allawi told the press that Grand Ayatollah Sistani assured him that no group would be excluded from the new government. "Al-Sistani stressed national unity and … the importance of forming the government as soon as possible," Allawi told reporters after the meeting.**

POLITICAL – Government of Iraq

Coalition Affiliation (at time of appointment)
United Iraq Alliance
Kurdistani Alliance
Iraqi Accord Front
Iraqi National List
Other / Independent

(F) = Female

***Formerly Iraqiya

Prime Minister
Nuri Kamil al-Maliki

President
Jalal Talabani

Deputy President
Tariq al-Hashimi

Deputy President
Adil Abd al-Mahdi

Deputy Prime Minister
Rafi Hiad Jiad al-Issawi

Deputy Prime Minister
Rowsch Shawaysh

Minister of Agriculture	Vacant
Minister of Communications	Faruq Abd al-Qadir Abd al-Rahman
Minister of Culture	Mahir Dilli Ibrahim al-Hadithi
Minister of Defense	Abd al-Qadr al-Mufriji
Minister of Displacement & Migration	Dr. Abd al-Samad Rahman Sultan
Minister of Electricity	Dr. Karim Wahid al-Hasan
Minister of Education	Dr. Khudayr Mousa Jaffar al-Khuzai
Minister of Environment	Dr. Nermin Othman Hassan (F)
Minister of Finance	Bayan Jabr
Minister of Foreign Affairs	Hoshyar Mahmud Zebari
Minister of Health	Dr. Salih Mahdi Mutlab al-Hasnawi
Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research	Abid Dhiyab al-Ujayli
Minister of Human Rights	Eng. Wijdan Mikhail Salim (F)
Minister of Industry & Minerals	Fawzi Fransu Hariri
Minister of Interior	Jawad Kadhum Eidan al-Bulani
Minister of Justice	Dara Nur al-Din
Minister of Housing & Construction	Bayan Dizayee (F)
Minister of Labor & Social Affairs	Eng. Mahmud Muhammad Jawad al-Radi
Minister of Oil	Dr. Husayn Ibrahim al-Shahristani
Minister of Planning	Ali Ghalib Baban
Minister of Trade	Vacant
Minister of Science & Technology	Dr. Raid Jahid Fahmi
Minister of Municipalities & Public Works	Riyadh Abd al-Hamza Gharib
Minister of Transportation	Amir Abd al-Jabar Ismail
Minister of Water Resources	Dr. Abd al-Latif Jamal Rashid
Minister of Youth & Sports	Eng. Jasim Muhammad Jaffar
Minister of State for Civil Society Affairs	Dr. Thamir Jafar al-Zubaidi
Minister of State for National Dialogue	Dr. Akram Mousa Hadi al-Hakim
Minister of State for National Security	Eng. Shirwan Kamil al-Waili
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs	Dr. Muhammad Munajid Aifan al-Dulaymi
Minister of State for Provinces Affairs	Dr. Khulud Sami Izzara al-Majun (F)
Minister of State for Tourism and Antiquities	Dr. Qahtan Abbas Numanal-Jabburi
Minister of State for Women's Affairs	Dr. Khulud Sami Izzara al-Majun (F), Acting)
Minister of State for CoR Affairs	Safa al-Din Muhammad al-Safi
Minister of State at Large	Muhammad Abbas Muhammad al-Uraybi
Minister of State at Large	Ali Muhammad Ahmad
Minister of State at Large	Hasan Radhi Kazim al-Sari

POLITICAL – Key Legislative Issues

Legislative Process

Council of Ministers (CoM) → **Shura Council** → **Council of Representatives (COR)** → **Presidency Council** → **Published in Official Gazette**

Debate after 2nd Reading, Vote after 3rd Reading, and Committee Reports Throughout

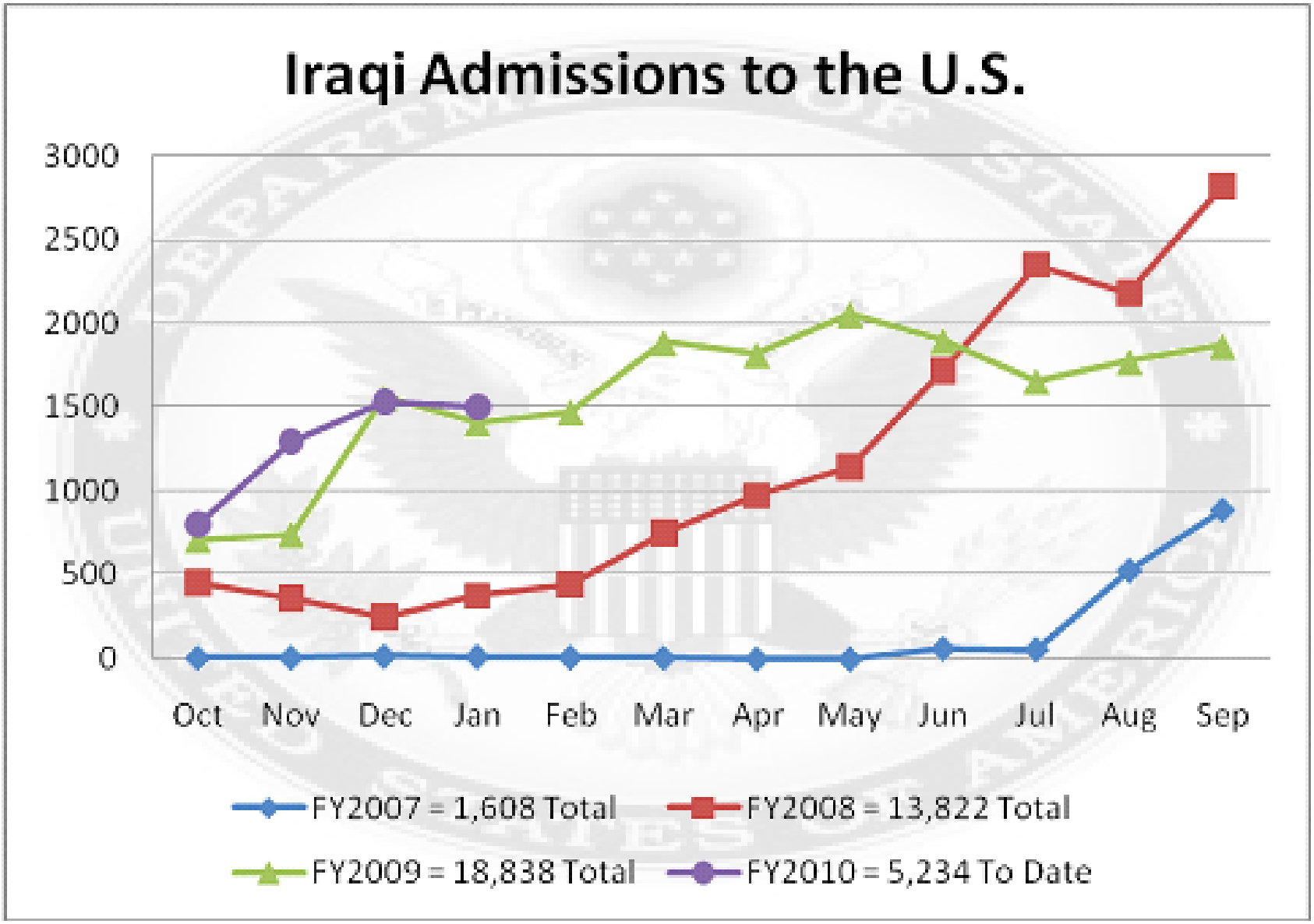
- **Hydrocarbons Package:** The Framework Law was resubmitted to the Oil and Gas Committee on October 26, 2008 and then returned to the Council of Ministers. There has been no progress on the other three laws in the package.

- **NGO Law:** This law, approved March 3, will regulate the operations and funding of Non-Governmental Organizations operating within Iraq.

POLITICAL – Refugee Update

- There are approximately 295,000 Iraqi refugees currently registered with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in neighboring countries. There are likely significant numbers of unregistered refugees as well. UNHCR reports that 1.5 million Iraqis remain internally displaced due to sectarian violence following the Samarra Mosque bombing of February 2006.
- In FY09, the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration contributed $303.4 million to international and nongovernmental organizations to assist displaced Iraqis inside the country and in the region.
- Since the program's inception in FY07, 45,395 Iraqi refugees have been admitted to the U.S. for resettlement.
- As of September 2009, a total of 1,143 Special Immigrant Visa (SIVs) have been issued for Iraqi translators and interpreters (and their dependents) since FY07 (under the Section 1059 program).
- As of September 2009, a total of 1,716 SIVs have been issued for Iraqis employed by the U.S. government (and their dependents) since FY08 (under the Section 1244 program).
- Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced on July 24 that the United States was contributing more than $100 million in new assistance to support the return and reintegration of displaced Iraqis.

POLITICAL – Refugee Update



SECURITY – Situation Update

Line between criminal and political violence is blurred by brazen attacks

Newly Elected Member of Parliament Killed in Drive-By Shooting:

- **Bashar Hamid al-Lagaidi, a newly elected member of parliament with former PM Allawi's bloc, Iraqiya, was killed in a drive-by shooting outside his home in Mosul. An Iraqi police official says two of the alleged gunmen have been arrested, while a third remains at large. Although some Iraqi officials blame al-Qaida in Iraq (AQI), it is not yet clear who is responsible for the attack.**

Gunmen Kill 15 in Gold Market Heist:

- **Masked gunmen shot up a gold jewelry market in Baghdad on May 25, the latest incident in a series of crimes that have included other jewelry heists and bank robberies. Fifteen people were killed in the attack before the perpetrators, who some officials believe are insurgents, left with cash and large quantities of gold.**

ECONOMIC – Oil

Crude Oil Update:

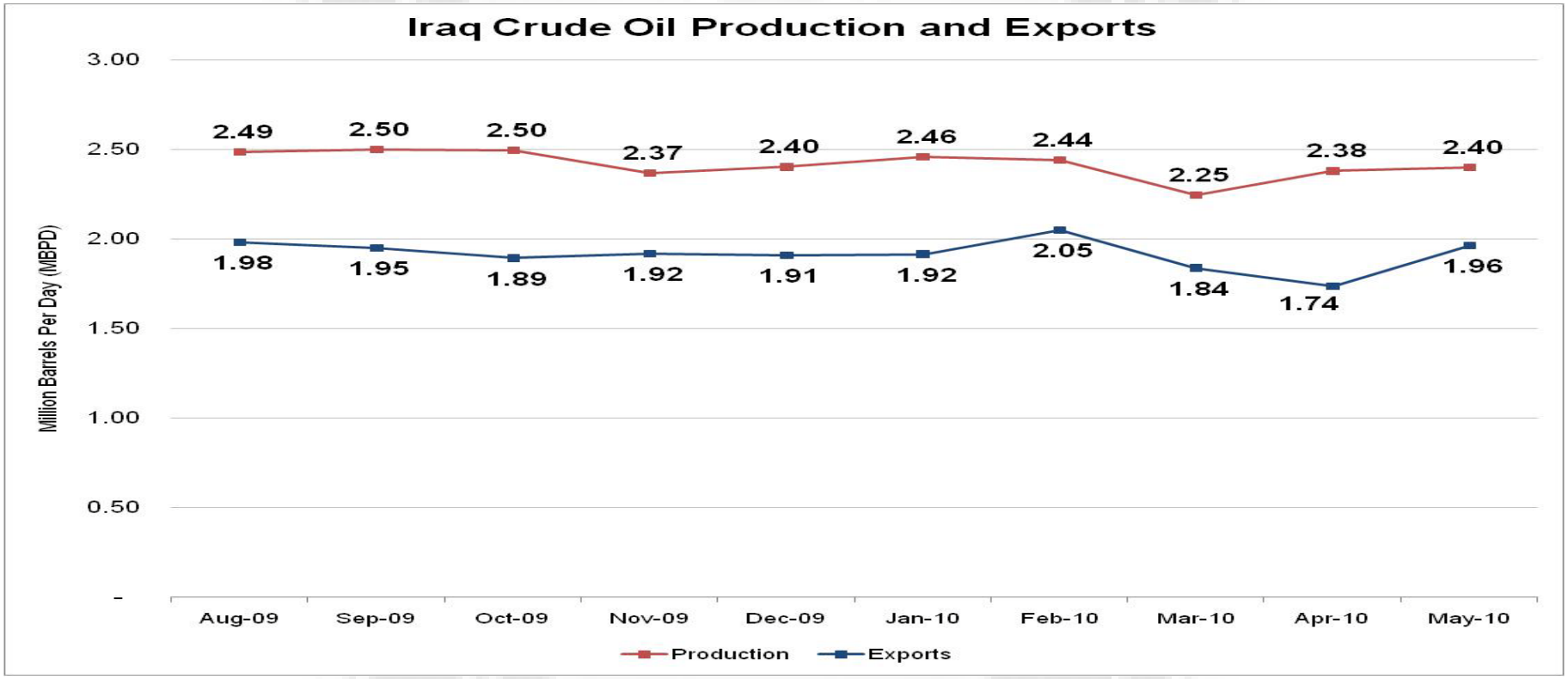
Price averages in world markets closed with the following prices:

Basrah Light at $66.51/barrel

Dated Brent at $72.04/barrel

WTI Cushing at $69.08/barrel

Oman/Dubai at $73.45/barrel



Revenue estimates:

2008: $61.9 Billion **2009: $39.2 Billion** **2010 (ytd): $20 Billion**

ECONOMIC – Oil/Gas

West Qurna Phase One development plans aim to address water shortage issues

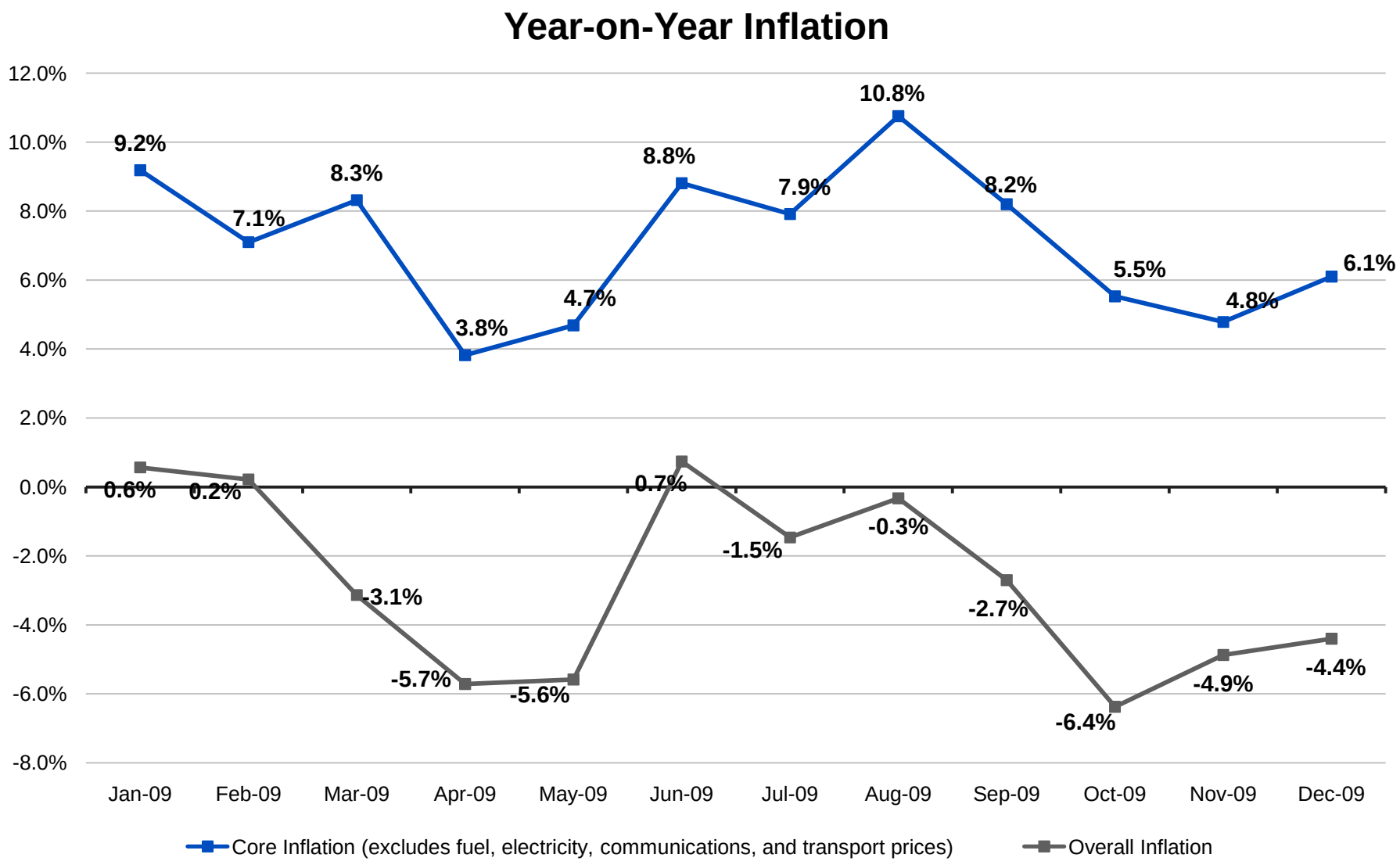
International Oil Service Firms Invited to Drill Four New Wells for West Qurna Phase One Oil Field:

- The development plan for West Qurna Phase One oil field, which was awarded to a consortium led by ExxonMobil, includes "drilling eight new wells and overhauling up to 50 wells this year to boost output," an Iraqi oil official said. The ExxonMobil-led consortium will invite subcontractors to bid on drilling the four new wells, while the state-run Iraqi Drilling Company will work on the remaining four new wells to increase production, said Bassem Abdul Karim, head of the Operation Department in the South Oil Co. The challenge of providing fields with water for injection to boost production remains, however. "We have around 500,000 barrels of water that we can use in the first two or three years, but after that we will be short of water," Abdul Karim said.

Oil Production to Boost Iraqi Economy by 7.3% in 2010:

- Iraqi Central Bank Governor Sinan al-Shabibi noted that Iraq may maintain an economic growth rate of about 7% in 2010, citing Iraq's oil production capabilities. "Of course oil output is still the main driver," he said. The International Monetary Fund noted in its recent staff report that it expected the economy of Iraq to expand 7.3% this year and 7.9% in 2011.

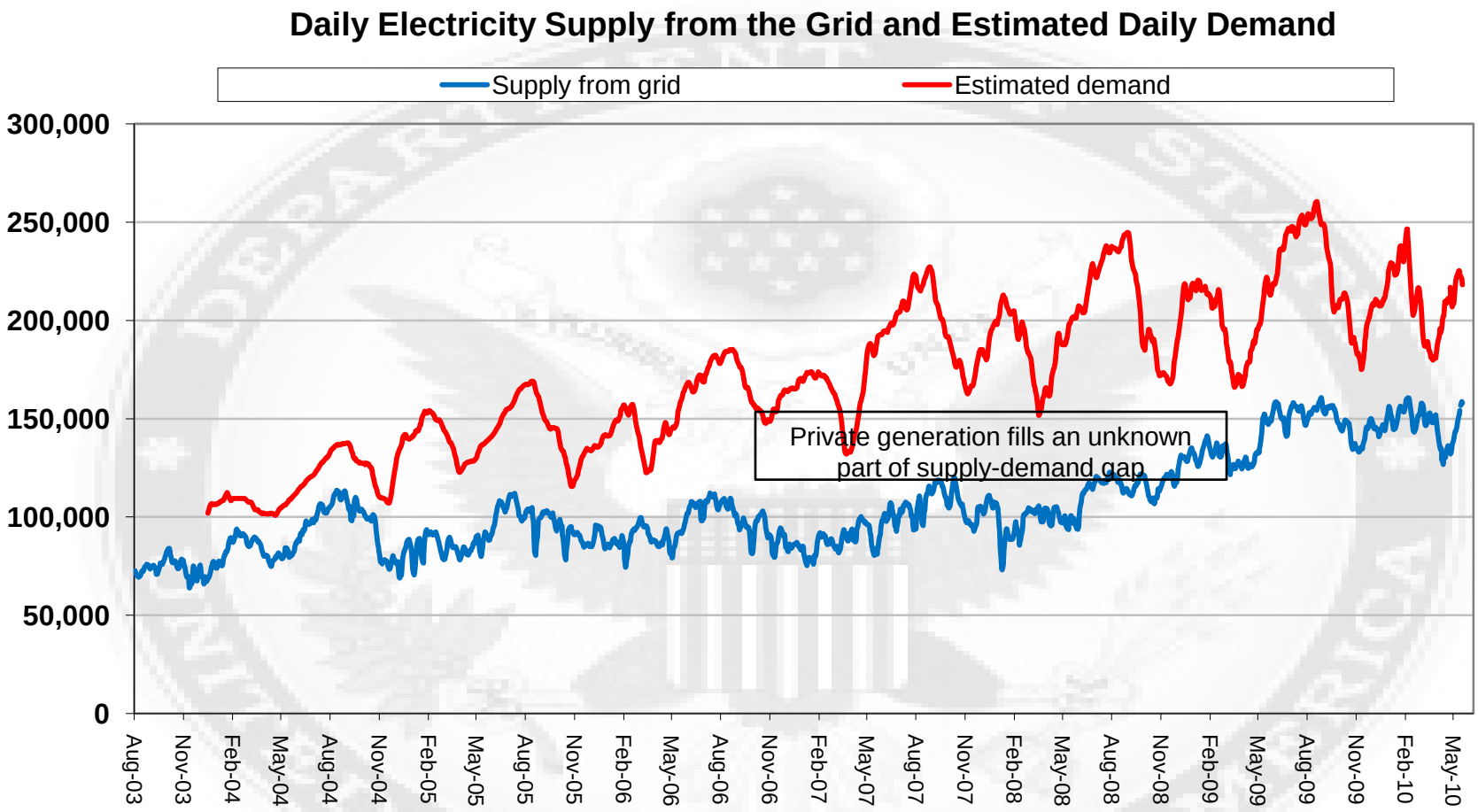
ECONOMIC – Fiscal and Monetary Affairs



ECONOMIC – Fiscal and Monetary Affairs

Economic Indicator	This Week	Last Week	Last Month	Last Year
Iraqi Debt Swap Bond Prices and Yields				
Price (USD)	$81.42	$82.32	$81.53	$64.50
Yield	7.75%	7.64%	7.72%	10.32%

Public Services – Electricity



- Electricity supply from the grid May 18-24 was % above the same period in 2009 and met 73% of estimated demand, compared with 67% for the year-earlier period.

DIPLOMATIC – Political Engagement

GOI strengthens regional relations

Iraq's Ambassador Arrives in Egypt:

- **Nazar Essa Kheralla, Iraq's Ambassador to Egypt, arrived in Cairo on May 23 where he was welcomed by Egypt's Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit. According to Iraq's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kheralla is the first Iraqi ambassador posted in Cairo since 1990.**

Beyond Baghdad

Donated Law Books for Maysan Courthouse

"…we will help Iraq's institutions strengthen their capacity to protect the rule of law, confront corruption, and deliver basic services."

President Barack Obama

Recent Highlights

Maysan

With help from PRT Maysan, the Appellate Courthouse in al-Amarah once again has a law library following the delivery of 400 legal books. Chief Judge and President of the Court of Appeals in Maysan, Judge Nuri Ahmed Mansour, notes, "For years the judges have done an outstanding job of rendering just and good decisions while handicapped by the absence of these important books. Now, we can work on behalf of the people quicker and with even better judgments." Once complete, the new law library, which replaces the one looted in 2003, will consist of 750 volumes and copy, fax, and scanning equipment.

Erbil

Warvin, a Kurdish language women's magazine, published a one-on-one interview on gender-based violence (GBV) with a rule of law advisor in its May issue. The interview, which was well received, offered practical steps for fighting GBV through education, policy, and advocacy. Per the advisor's request, a poster listing emergency hotline numbers was featured on the magazine's back cover.

CONTACT INFORMATION

This brief draws from multiple sources. References are cited on the following pages.

For additional information, please see:

- **Department of State, Section 2207 Report on Iraq Relief and Reconstruction**
  http://2001-2009.state.gov/p/nea/rls/rpt/
- **Department of State, Section 1227 Report on Iraq**
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- **Department of Defense, Section 9010 Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq**
  http://www.defenselink.mil/home/features/Iraq_Reports/index.html

Please forward all questions and/or comments to:

NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov

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- Department of State, NEA Political Section, NEA-I-POL-DL@state.gov

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- Wall Street Journal, May 25, http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704113504575264800812231336.html?mod=WSJ_latestheadlines; Washington Post, May 25, http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/24/AR2010052402780.html
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- Iraq MOFA – English, May 23, http://www.mofa.gov.iq/english/news/display.aspx?NewsID=8454

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- Source for Stories: US Embassy Baghdad, Provincial Reconstruction Teams, May 22, 2010
- PRT Weekly LOO Summary, Week ending May 9-15, 2010
- Source for President Obama's Quote: http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-of-President-Barack-Obama-Responsibly-Ending-the-War-in-Iraq/